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Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of March 2001, I have the honour to request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address to you, Sir, in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of March 2001, in order to convey, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1342 (2001), some observations relating to the current situation of the decolonization process in Western Sahara.

The States members of the Group ratify their historic tradition of respect for the rules of international law, especially the peaceful settlement of disputes, and reaffirm the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and in other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The members of the Group are very hopeful that the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara will be implemented in accordance with the terms accepted on 30 August 1988 by Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro, the Houston Accords of 1997 (S/1997/742) and the Protocols of 1999 (S/1999/483/Add.1), and pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The United Nations made the binding commitment to fully implement the Settlement Plan proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 18 June 1990 (S/21360), which was accepted by both parties and adopted by the Security Council over 10 years ago in its resolution 658 (1990).

This commitment was renewed on 29 April 1991, with the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991), which decided to hold a referendum on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, organized and supervised by the United Nations.

The States members of the Group reaffirm their conviction that the Settlement Plan, including the holding of a transparent, objective and impartial referendum, continues to be the only choice accepted by both parties to ensure the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and to reach a just and lasting peace in that region.

The States members of the Group reiterate their support for the activities carried out by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and would also like to reaffirm to you, Sir, and to your Special Representative and your Personal Representative, their recognition for your efforts to complete the peace process in Western Sahara promptly and successfully.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States